

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 FRB-01

OMB-01 L-02 /047 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: FAS/COT/FCA:WDAVIS:JES

APPROVED BY: EB/FTD:WCMIMS

FCA:RBEVANS - AGRIC

AGRIC:AA:TRFREEMAN

AGRIC/FMD:DWILLIAMS

AGRIC/FCA:BMEEKER

AGRIC:RBEVIS

EB/FTD:WCMIMS

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R 222137Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS STATE 092314

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SU

SUBJ: U.S. COTTON IMPORTS

REF: KHARTOUM 0727

1. USDA/FAS GREATLY APPRECIATES KHARTOUM'S RECENT REPORTING ON SUDAN COTTON POLICY AND REPORTS THAT THE U.S. HAS HAD NO RPT NO COUNTRY QUOTAS FOR LONG STAPLE (1-1/8 INCH OR MORE) COTTON SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 1961. AUGUST 1-JULY 31 ANNUAL GLOBAL QUOTA FOR LONG STAPLE IS 95,000 BALES. QUOTA IS SUBDIVIDED ON THE BASIS OF STAPLE LENGTH WITH EXTRA LONG STAPLE (1-3/8 INCH OR MORE, ELS) ACCOUNTING FOR 82,500 BALES. DURING LAST 5 YEARS, U.S. IMPORTS OF ELS HAVE RANGED BETWEEN 11,000 AND 30,000 BALES AS PRICES FOR THE 60,000 TO 98,000 BALES OF U.S. PRODUCED ELS HAVE BEEN COMPETITIVE WITH FOREIGN GROWTHS. U.S. 30,000 BALE QUOTA FOR STAPLES LESS THAN UNCLASSIFIED

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1-1/8 INCH IS ALLOCATED ON COUNTRY QUOTA BASIS WITH MOST ALLOCATED

TO MEXICO AND 1,600 BALES TO SUDAN AND EGYPT COMBINED.

2. GOS OFFICIALS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ENCOURAGED TO LOOK TO THE U.S. AS A COTTON MARKET OR TO EXPECT NON-RECIPROCAL U.S. CONCESSIONS ON COTTON IN GATT. WITH THE PRESENT DEPRESSED MARKET SITUATION, U.S. MILL INTEREST IS VERY SLACK. ELS CONSUMPTION DURING 1974-75 IS FORECAST AT 65,000 BALES, 26 PERCENT BELOW 1973-74. FARM PRICES RANGED BETWEEN 55 AND 60 CENTS PER POUND DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH. TO MOVE COTTON ONTO THE U.S. MARKET MIGHT WELL REQUIRE PRICES BELOW THE COST OF PRODUCTION WHICH COULD PROMPT COUNTERVAILING ACTION. THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES) AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COTTON (EXPORTING COUNTRIES) AND WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THESE BODIES IN ADDRESSING COTTON PROBLEMS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCE, COTTON, EXPORTS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE092314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FAS/COT/FCA:WDAVIS:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750141-1040
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750427/aaaaazmc.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KHARTOUM 0727
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 NOV 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. COTTON IMPORTS
TAGS: EAGR, SU
To: KHARTOUM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006